

Message Text

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SUBJECT: UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES
(UNHCR)

REF: GENEVA 10147 (EXDIS)

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE NOVEMBER 10 ISSUE
OF THE REPUTED GENEVA DAILY "JOURNAL DE GENEVE". (INFORMAL
MISSION TRANSLATION FROM THE FRENCH).

QUOTE: THE DEPARTURE OF SADRUDDIN AGA KHAN
"NEW BATTLES FOR THE PRINCE"

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER'S RETIRE-
MENT MADE BY THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL CONTINUES TO BE
(PARTICULARLY IN GENEVA) A SUBJECT OF ASTONISHMENT AND
GUESSING AS TO WHOM THE SUCCESSOR OF THE 44 YEAR OLD
PRINCE WILL BE AT THE HEAD OF THIS IMPORTANT HUMANITARIAN
INSTITUTION.

THE RETIREMENT OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER IS NOT A VERY
BIG SURPRISE AS HIS MANDATE (IT HAS BEEN THE THIRD ONE
FOR SADRUDDIN AGA KHAN) EXPIRES AT THE END OF 1978. UNDER
THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT IS PROBABLE THAT THE HIGH COMMIS-
SIONER DID NOT WANT TO ALLOW OVER-ZEALOUS CANDIDATES
SUFFICIENT TIME TO TURN THE REFUGEE OFFICE INTO AN ELEC-
TION HALL. NOW A "NEW" (MASCULINE OR FEMININE) HIGH
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COMMISSIONER IS TO BE FOUND. IT WILL BE A DIFFICULT
TASK, AS THE JOB REQUIRES A SUBTLE MIXTURE OF DIPLOMACY,
TACT AND FIRMNESS. ALL THESE QUALITIES ARE CHARACTERISTIC
OF SADRUDDIN AGA KHAN.

CONSIDERING THE CHANGE OF MENTALITY AND THE NEW POLI-
TICAL EQUILIBRIUM OF THE UN SYSTEM, TWO TYPES OF CANDI-
DATES SEEM LIKELY.

FIRST, A PERSONALITY OF THE THIRD WORLD, PROBABLY AN AFRICAN REPRESENTATIVE. IN FACT, AFRICA IS ABSORBING A LARGE PART OF THE UNHCR ACTIVITIES, AND THE AFRICANS ARE NOT SHORT OF PERSONS QUALIFIED TO TAKE OVER SADRUDDIN AGA KHAN'S SUCCESSION.

ANOTHER POSSIBILITY COULD BE A SCANDINAVIAN CANDIDATE, SINCE THE NORTHERN STATES ARE CONTRIBUTING VERY GENEROUSLY TO THE UNHCR BUDGET. LOOKING IN THAT DIRECTION, THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING A FEMININE CANDIDATE IS NOT EXCLUDED.

THE REAL REASONS FOR THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S RATHER HASTY RETIREMENT REMAIN MYSTERIOUS, PARTICULARLY SINCE HE IS STILL ABSENT FROM GENEVA. WE SUSPECT THAT THE RECENT CREATION OF THE "BELLERIVE GROUP," (NOTE: BELLERIVE IS THE PRINCE'S CHATEAU NEAR GENEVA) TO WHICH THE HIGH COMMISSIONER HAS PERSONALLY CONTRIBUTED, TOGETHER WITH PROFESSOR DENIS DE ROUGEMONT, COULD BE SOMEHOW CONNECTED WITH HIS DECISION. ACCORDING TO MR. JACQUES FREYMOND, THE IUHEI DIRECTOR AND MEMBER OF THE "BELLERIVE GROUP" WITH WHOM WE TALKED YESTERDAY, THE PRINCE IS EXTREMELY CONCERNED BY THE CHANGES OCCURING IN OUR CIVILIZATION, AND THE ANTICIPATION THAT WE MAY BE ENTERING THE "PLUTONIUM AGE". HIS RETIREMENT - PARTICULARLY SINCE HE REMAINS AVAILABLE TO THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL FOR HUMANITARIAN MISSIONS - MAY BE INTERPRETED AS A DECISION TO GET EVEN MORE INVOLVED IN THE STRUGGLE FOR ECOLOGICAL EQUILIBRIUM, FOR WHICH THE BELLERIVE GROUP IS OFFERING THE IDEAL WORK-
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